**Inviting Family Members to the U.S.**

Family members (other than your spouse or children) wishing to visit the U.S. must enter either on WB/WT status under the [Visa Waiver Program (VWP)](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visa-waiver-program.html) or with a visitor visa (B-2). Spouses and children can enter the U.S. as visitors for a short stay. However, for a longer stay, they should enter on dependent visas. If you are inviting your spouse or children under the age of 21 to the U.S. on a dependent visa (F-2, J-2), please contact ISSS.

If you need an invitation letter, a sample letter is included below. International Student & Scholar Services **does not** write these letters, as they are not required by the Department of State.

Citizens of certain countries are eligible to enter the U.S. under the VWP. If your family members are eligible to enter under the VWP, then they do not need to apply for a visitor visa (B-2) at a U.S. embassy.

If your family members are not eligible to enter under the VWP, then they must apply for a visitor (B-2) visa at the U.S. embassy in their home countries. The [U.S. State Department/Bureau of Consular Affairs](http://www.travel.state.gov/) has additional information about applying for a visitor visa. In addition, many individual consulates will have more specific information on their websites about inviting family members to the U.S.

If your guest is not fluent in English, you may translate the information or recommend that they contact the nearest U.S. consulate to request a translated version before applying for the visa. They should read the information before submitting their application for the visa.

Ensure that your family members have the following evidence:

* Review the B-2 [application process](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html) and requirements
* Complete [Form DS-160](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html)
* **Invitation letter:** sample letter below. You should write each person a separate letter.
* **Evidence of your immigration or enrollment status:** Provide your family members with a copy of your visa status documents (I-20s or DS-2019s) and other documents verifying your status in the U.S. You may also consider getting a Confirmation of Enrollment letter or transcript from SAS.
* **Evidence of Funding:** If you will provide support for their trip, you should supply evidence of your funding such as a bank statement or employment letter.
  + If your family members intend to cover their own expenses, they should provide a bank statement, employment verification, or other evidence of their own funding.
* **Evidence of intent to return home:** Your family members must prove that they will return home after visiting the U.S. Documents showing employment, property ownership, enrollment in school (in home country), and records of other trips abroad are considered good evidence of intent to return home.
* **Family ties:** birth certificate to prove familial relationship with you
* **Commencement Ceremony:** If your family is traveling to attend the [Commencement Ceremony](http://www1.wne.edu/commencement/index.cfm), provide details of the ceremony.
* **Other documents:** Visit the [U.S. Department of State](http://www.usembassy.gov/) for links to U.S. consulates around the world.

Even if all the above documents are provided, there is no guarantee the visa will be approved. The success of their request rests in their ability to prove they do not intend to stay in the U.S.

(Date)

(Address of foreign consulate where person will apply for the visa – check [www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov))

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is (Name) and I am currently a student at Western New England University majoring in (Major). I am requesting that a tourist visa be issued to (Person you want to invite), in order to allow (Her/Him) to visit with me in the United States. (She/He) is my (Explain your relationship to the person) and will be visiting with me from (Arrival Date) to (Departure Date). (Explain why you want the person to visit). (If you will be funding your visitor(s) during her/his visit, include the following statements:) During (her/his) stay in the United States, I will provide lodging, food, and other necessities to the visitor. I have enclosed evidence of this in the form of a [bank letter, etc.].

I have provided the name(s), passport number(s), and date(s) of birth for my visitor(s) below.

Name:

Passport Number:

Date of Birth:

Name:

Passport Number:

Date of Birth:

Your kind consideration of this request will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(Your Signature)

(Your Name)

(Your Current US Address)

(Your Email)